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Saturday, January 6th, 2007, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

- [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#) (1756-1791). [German Dance No. 3, Sleigh Ride](#) (1791)
Leopold Stokowski and his Symphony Orchestra. Cala CACD0532
- [Engelbert Humperdinck](#) (1854-1921). *Hansel and Gretel*, Prelude (1893)
Leopold Stokowski and his Symphony Orchestra. Cala CACD0532
- [Nicolai Berezowsky](#) (1900-1953). *Christmas Festival Overture* (1943)
Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Arthur Bennett Lipkin. CRI 209
- [Johann Sebastian Bach](#) (1685-1750). *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her*
Choir of St. Thomas's Church, Leipzig, Georg Christoph Biller. BBC MM140
- [Felix Mendelssohn](#) (1809-1847). *Vom Himmel hoch*, No. 1, Coro (1830)
Dresdner Kreuzchor, Dresdner Philharmonie, Martin Flämig. Capriccio 10 216
- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). *In dulci jubilo*
Choir of St. Thomas's Church, Leipzig, Georg Christoph Biller. BBC MM140
- [Johann Michael Bach](#) (1648-1694). *In dulci jubilo*
Webb Wiggins, Mary Anne Ballard, organ (Baltimore Consort). Dorian DOR-90198
- [Michael Praetorius](#) (1571-1621). *In dulci jubilo* (1619)
Gabrieli Consort & Players, Paul McCreesh. Musical Heritage Society MHS 514734L
- [Ottorino Respighi](#) (1879-1936). *Feste romana*, No. 4, [La Befana](#) (1928)
New York Philharmonic, Giuseppe Sinopoli. Deutsche Grammophon D 135381

Just before we leave the 12 days of Christmas behind us, we've put together a program of more works than we've ever attempted before in one hour, all having to do with this time of year. The Wolfgang Mozart *Sleigh Ride* is often confused with the work of the same name by another Mozart: Leopold, Wolfgang's father. But our *Sleigh Ride* is actually from a set of dances by the famous son, and was so named because of the use of, well, sleigh bells. We follow this with the most well-known work today, the *Prelude to Hansel and Gretel*. This most German of operas, by the composer Engelbert Humperdinck (a name so euphonious a singer with a peculiar eye for marketing took it for himself) is always staged at Christmastime even though there's nothing particularly Christmas-y about the story. It turns out that the libretto started as Christmas poems written by Humperdinck's sister. She asked her brother to set the poems to music for her children. He did, the songs grew into an opera, it premiered on December 23rd, and Christmas history was made.

The least-known work today is Berezowsky's *Christmas Festival Overture*, which employs a charming array of Ukrainian folk tunes. Berezowsky was born in Russia, came to the U.S. in 1922, and was a longtime violinist in the New York Philharmonic. His most popular work was another opera for children, *Babar the Elephant*.

Then we hear chorales associated with the season, first in Bach four-part harmonizations. *Vom Himmel hoch* then gets dressed up in the very Bachian cantata of the same name by Mendelssohn, from which we'll hear the first movement. Mendelssohn, more than anyone else, revived the old master's music for new 19th-century audiences. In another last-name confusion, *In dulci jubilo* (many will know this from the carol "Good Christian Men, Rejoice") appears in a version not by J.S. Bach, but by his father-in-law and cousin, Johann Michael Bach, then in a rip-snorting version for many ensembles and many, many drums by Praetorius.

Finally the "Epiphany" music from *Roman Festivals*—Respighi at his most rip-snorting—appropriately ends this January 6th show, as we leave the Christmas season and head, energized, into the new year.

Hosted by [Kile Smith](#), Curator of the Fleisher Collection, and [Jack Moore](#), Program Director of WRTI. *Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection* uncovers the unknown, rediscovers the little-known, and takes a fresh look at some of the remarkable treasures housed in the Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music in the [Free Library of Philadelphia](#). The Fleisher Collection is the largest lending library of orchestral performance material in the world. For recording details, please go to our [web page](#). For a detailed list of all our shows, please visit our [archives](#).